

In the Specification

[0028] After receiving the system identification, the centralized facility then validates the system identification at 104. Validation is determined according to the customer identification and/or a passphrase. The system identification constitutes a unique identification that enables the centralized facility to readily identify the customer making the request and the customer's in-field devices. If the customer identification is not valid 106, a prompt for entry of a valid customer identification is requested 108. After the system identification is validated 104, 110, ~~a particular software option that is desired to be activated is sent~~ a request for a particular software option that is desired to be activated is sent from the in-field device requesting activation and is received at the centralized facility 112. The centralized facility then validates the activation request at 114. Specifically, the centralized facility makes an initial review of the activation request by comparing the system identification to the activation request. The centralized facility determines whether the system is capable of the activation requested. For example, the centralized facility determines whether the requested activation has previously been made and fulfilled, and therefore, the option is already enabled.